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A Fusion Chamber Design with a Liquid First Wall and Divertor

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Abstract: The APEX study is investigating the use of free flowing liquid surfaces to form the inner surface of the chamber around a fusion plasma. We present a design for the chamber of a 3840MW fusion reactor based on the configuration for the chamber and magnets from ARIES-RS but with a fast flowing molten salt of mixed Be, Li and Na fluorides for the first wall and divertor and molten salt blanket with a ferritic steel structure. Our design analysis includes strong radiation from the core and edge plasma, (liquid) MHD effects on the weakly conducting molten salt, a recycling first wall stream that enables a high efficiency thermal conversion, and evaluations of breeding, neutronics, tritium recovery and safety.

I. INTRODUCTION

This paper briefly summarizes a design for the chamber of a magnetic fusion reactor with flowing liquid walls facing the plasma. While removing surface heat, the continuously-renewed liquid surface is unaffected by the radiation damage and thermal stresses that limit the performance of solid chamber walls. A companion paper summarizes the divertor design[1] and a longer paper[2] provides more detail and includes extensive references and discussions of R&D issues. The design effort, part of the Advanced Power Extraction (APEX) study[3], utilizes work on plasma interactions with liquid surfaces performed in the Advanced Limiter-Divertor Plasma Facing Systems (ALPS) study[4]. The ideas for fusion reactors with liquid metals and even liquids with free surfaces are not all new[5-23], but new ideas have been developed in APEX and the depth of the underlying science and engineering exceeds previous work.

Chamber technology serves two of three fundamental functions of fusion energy systems. The first is confining the plasma itself. The second and third are (1) breeding of sufficient tritium to fuel a self-sustained reactor, and (2) practical, reliable, safe, economical power extraction. Economics pushes fusion toward high power density and high-temperature coolants; these set requirements for

tritium breeding and heat removal.[3] Three principal features of the fusion chamber are the (1) first wall and divertor, (2) the blanket, and (3) the shield (Fig. 1). We also include supporting systems such as those for tritium processing and heat exchange. We have adapted the basic magnetic configuration from an existing design study for a 2170 MW D/T fusion power plant called ARIES-RS[24,25] with 16 toroidal field coils, a major radius of 5.5 m and aspect ratio of 4, and incorporated a liquid surface first wall and divertor and a liquid blanket.

We have explored mechanical designs for several concepts and each has included detailed CAD renderings and several innovative features.[2] In 1999-2000, we studied a design with the molten salt Flibe as the working liquid, and, in 2000-2001, designs with Li and with Sn-Li. Excessive surface temperature (vaporization of F) limited the Flibe design, and poor thermal efficiency due to the relatively low temperature for evaporation of Li limited the Li design.[26] In 2001 we began designs with a Sn first wall and Pb-Li blanket. The analysis of plasma surface interactions gave a fairly good operating temperature range with the surface temperature limit of Sn being 810-840°C for the FW and 1630°C (1480°C for Ga) for the divertor. Simple correlations for the MHD forces and the assumption of an insulating wall showed that ~20mm-thick flow streams launched at 10 m/s would flow down and adhere to concave substrate. The difficulty of modeling the magneto-hydrodynamic (MHD) effects that dominate the fluid flow precluded more detailed analyses, and this area is being actively investigated through both modeling and experimental work in APEX.[27]

We refer readers to another paper[2] for descriptions of many innovative features. For example, in utilizing a Sn-Li mixture, the lower activity of the Li in the mixture and lower evaporation rate raised the allowable surface temperature of the first wall from 380°C for Li to 590°C for 0.8Sn-0.2Li[28,29], and segregation of Li to the surface (driven by a reduction in the surface tension) was also identified as an issue and possible benefit.[30]

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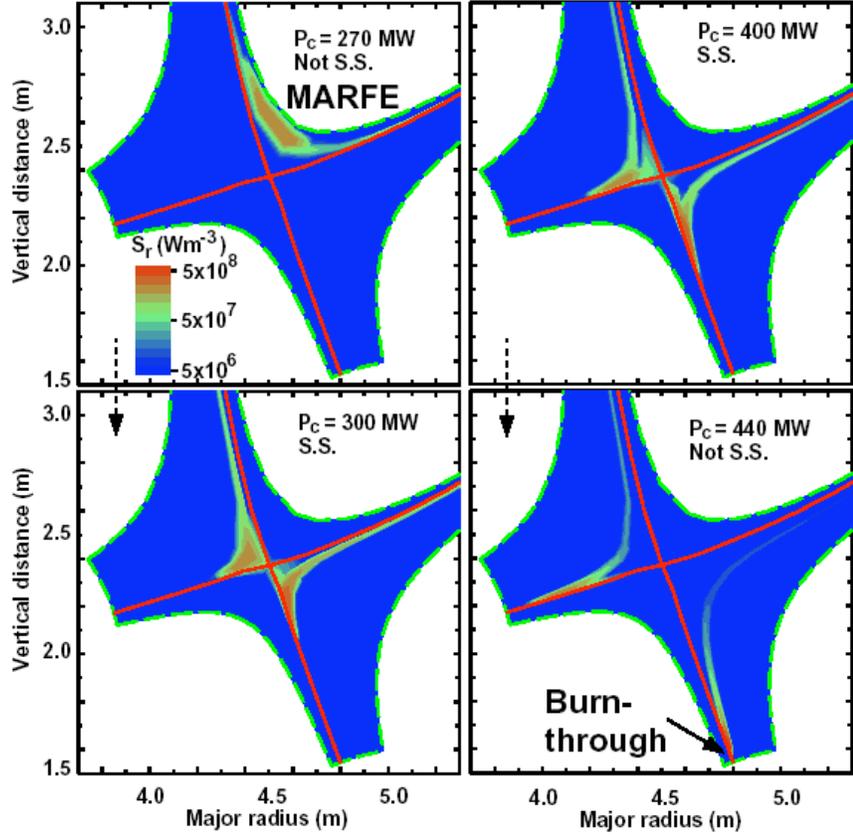
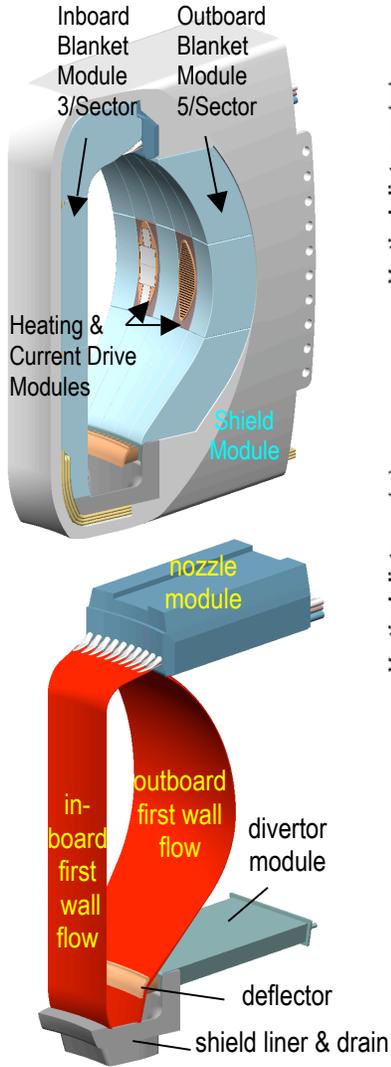
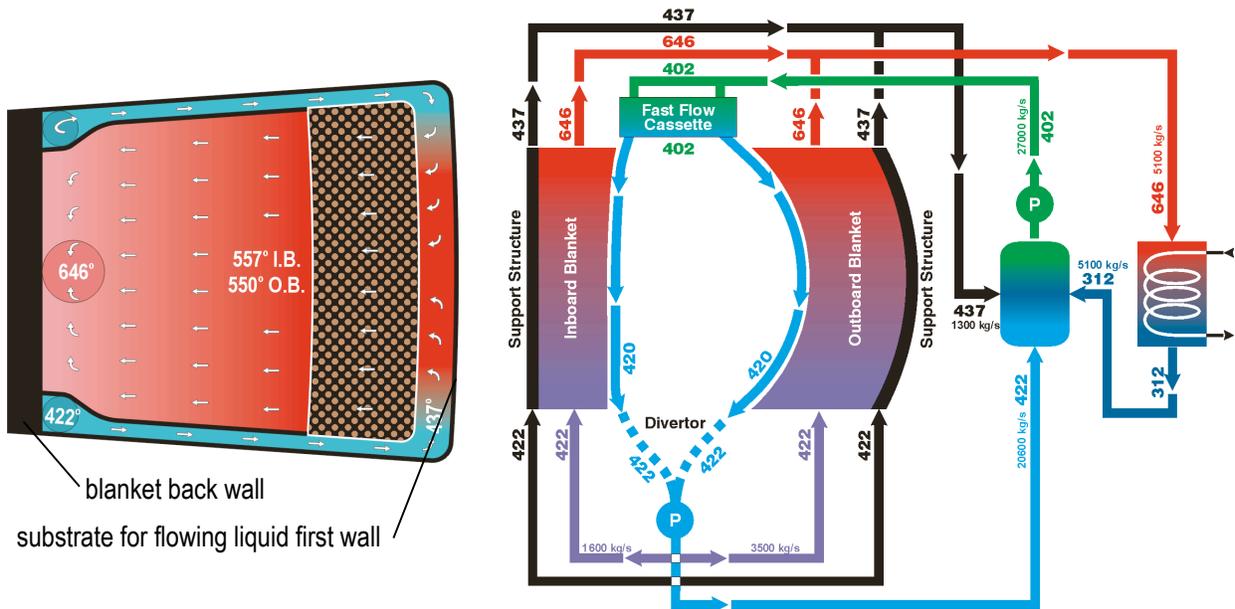


Figure 1. (left). Chamber components: blanket and shield modules (top), first wall and divertor flow paths and modules (bottom).
 Figure 2. (above) UEDGE "maps" of fluorine radiation. See text.
 Figure 3. (below) Flow streams and bulk Flinabe temperatures (right) and cross-section of outboard blanket module (left).



Other examples include modifying the flow substrate to improve flow around penetrations, flexible SiC bags that contained the liquid blanket, and "self shielding" nozzles invented by authors Nelson and Fogarty.

In our designs, modeling of the plasma edge defines the heat loads, and thermal-hydraulic analyses show that the heat removal is adequate. Evaluation of thermal transport shows an operating point with reasonable thermal efficiency and neutronic analyses show adequate tritium breeding. Evaluations of safety indicate manageable approaches to the issues. Since our focus is on chamber technology, we do not develop descriptions of the magnets, balance of plant, reactor hall, etc.

In FY2002 we began our design with the molten salt, Flinabe, described later. It has similarities to Flibe but a lower melting point. We began with some skepticism since molten salts have poor thermal conductivity and good thermal conductivity would seem to be an *a priori* requirement for any first wall and divertor material. In this regard, our APEX/ARIES design with Flinabe is a startling and pleasing result.

II. CHAMBER CONFIGURATION

In our adaptation of ARIES-RS, we increased the power density by specifying a fusion power of 3840 MW to define the heat loads for the first wall and divertor, so that a total power of 909 MW (767 MW alpha power, 142 MW auxiliary power) will be transmitted as surface heat loads to the first wall and divertor (Table 1).

TABLE I
POWER BALANCE PARAMETERS FOR APEX CHAMBER SYSTEM

First wall area	434 m ²
Average neutron wall loading	7.08 MW/m ²
Average surface heat flux	1.76 MW/m ²
Fusion power	3840 MW
Alpha power	767 MW
Auxiliary power to plasma	142 MW
Power to the first wall	765 MW
FW nuclear heating	400MW
Total power removed by FW	1165MW
Power to the divertor	144 MW
FW surface heat flux, average	1 MW/m ²
FW surface heat flux, maximum	3 MW/m ²
Neutron power	3073 MW
Neutron wall loading, average	7MW/m ²
Neutron wall loading, maximum	10MW/m ²
Blanket energy multiplication	1.06
Blanket thermal power	3257 MW
Total thermal power	4024 MW
Total power (thermal + aux.)	4166 MW

In high power density devices, a large fraction of the alpha power must be converted into radiation to make the heat load on the divertor manageable. While large radiative cooling can mitigate the peak heat loads, it also tends to decrease the thermal isolation and stability

of the core plasma. In our design, strong radiation from the core plus strong radiation from the divertor region is used to reduce the peak heat load in the divertor and balance the power loads of the divertor and first wall. The power to the first wall of 765 MW is 84% of the total particle power of 909 MW while the balance of power to the divertor (144 MW) is only 16%.

The recent plasma transport modeling by Rognlien and Rensink, finds a stable operating window for a highly radiating edge plasma including steady state modeling solutions in which about 95% of the power coming into the scrape-off layer is radiated near the X-point for alpha powers in the range of 300-360 MW. This work is described briefly in our companion paper[1] and elsewhere[2,31]. Figure 2 shows a sample result for a series of solutions at progressively higher values of P_c , power convected from the plasma core into the edge plasma. The plots are maps of fluorine radiation in the lower portion of the chamber cross section with strong impurity line-radiation concentrated near the X-point and below. The set of four cases shows a progression from a case that is not stable (MARFE), through two cases (300 and 400 MW) with stable operation, to the 440 MW case that is unstable and "burns through" onto the target. The 300 MW case had a peak heat flux (particle + radiation) at the divertor plate of only ~ 8 MW/m² and a peak heat flux to the first wall of ~ 2 MW/m² for a density at the edge of $\sim 1.5 \times 10^{20}$ m⁻³, H (D/T) throughput of $\sim 3.1 \times 10^{23}$ particles/s with divertor plates orthogonal to magnetic flux surfaces and H pumped at private flux surface for stability. The Fluorine density at core boundary varies poloidally over the range $3.7-7.3 \times 10^{17}$ m⁻³ (0.24% - 0.49% of hydrogen; 1% is the limit based on core radiation loss). This work supports the conclusion that it is reasonable to investigate designs based upon relatively modest peak heat fluxes (8-10 MW/m²) in the divertor.

III. FLOW PATHS AND HEAT TRANSFER

Fig. 3 shows the flow streams and bulk temperatures. The inboard and outboard first wall streams flow from a set of nozzles at the top of the chamber that inject the Flinabe onto the front surfaces of the blanket modules. One set of nozzles feeds the inner first wall, another set feeds the outer first wall. The overlapping streams from the "self-shielding" nozzles prevent any line-of-sight from the plasma directly to a nozzle.[2]

The thickness of the first wall flow at midplane is 23 mm and the flow speed is 10 m/s. The first wall flow length is ~ 6.5 m. The Flinabe starts at 402°C and rises to 420°C at the bottom of the first wall. The penetration of the surface heat and nuclear heating contribute about equally to the rise in bulk temperature of ~ 18 °C. The surface temperature, which reaches 509°C at the bottom of the first wall, was calculated by Smolentsev using a

fluid flow and heat transfer model that includes MHD (magneto-hydrodynamic) effects.[2,32] The approach is based on the standard “K-” model used widely in engineering applications to characterize turbulent flow, and was modified by Smolentsev and others to include the effects of MHD on the turbulence, particularly in the region of fluid near the free surface. While the MHD effect on the flow thickness (or speed) was minimal for Flinabe, the effect on heat transfer in the near surface was significant¹. Freeze and Smolentsev[33] have also investigated the effect of waviness on the heat transfer. For our design, the impact of the magnetic field on the wave motion is still not clear and we typically show two curves. Both include the effect of the MHD on turbulence. The rise in surface temperature for Flinabe without the effect of waviness is 130°C and 90°C with the waviness.[2] So the maximum estimated surface temperature of the first wall is 532°C without the advantage of the wavy flow and 492°C with waviness. Since we anticipate that some waviness will occur, we conclude that the maximum surface temperature will not exceed the allowable maximum surface temperature of 510°C, and the first wall power handling is adequate.

Near the bottom of the chamber, these first wall streams become the inboard and outboard divertor flow². This flow differs from the first wall flow in four ways: (1) the divertor streams are separated at the sector boundaries by the deflector and guided into the exhaust ducts; (2) charged particles carrying a high heat load graze the divertor surface, so a protrusion (bump or wave) collects a large heat flux; (3) higher peak heat load; and (4) MHD forces from the radial and poloidal components in the field and gradients along the divertor surface.

The heat load and temperature rise in the divertor are discussed in our companion paper.[1] In the divertor, charged particles hitting the surface at the “strike point” produce a peaked heat load. The radiative heat load comes primarily from the strongly radiating zones near the null point in the separatrix. Charge exchange neutrals and radiation from the main plasma also contribute lesser amounts to the heat load. In our design calculations, the peak heat load in the outboard divertor of 10-12 MW/m² is approximated by a flat profile with a

¹ In general in the presence of a strong magnetic field, the turbulent eddies in the bulk of the fluid tend toward a 2-D state with circulation around the direction of the magnetic field and elongation along the field. The turbulent structure is anisotropic; near the free surface there is also a damping of turbulent transport and turbulence redistribution. In these flows, one must characterize separately the turbulence in the bulk fluid and the turbulence near the free surface. See Ref. [2].

² Since a rapid flow for the blanket does not lead to a workable design for several reasons, this approach, with a single fast stream for the first wall and divertor, is the simplest implementation for the chamber flow. Introducing a separate divertor stream offers the potential advantages of separate control for fluid parameters such as inlet velocity and temperature but also introduces the complexity of a separate flow loop.

peak of 10.6MW/m² that is the sum of the uniform radiated heat flux onto the entire divertor surface of ~3 MW/m² plus 7.6 MW/m² over the peak. The rise in surface temperature for the divertor stream is about 135°C; this, added to the bulk temperature of 420°C leaving the first wall gives a peak of about 555°C. This is higher than the allowable temperature of 510°C for the first wall, but is acceptable in the divertor where there is more shielding of impurities from the main plasma.

Below the divertor, the inner and outer fluid streams join in the upper part of the exhaust ducts and flow out of the bottom of the chamber through this duct. The pumping duct is protected with a removable shield liner (Fig. 1) that also provides radiation shielding for the duct wall and magnets. The duct (1m dia.) is large enough to carry the flowing fluid and provide sufficient conductance for pumping exhaust gases. Even if the flow velocity dropped from 10 m/s in the divertor to 5 m/s in the duct, the duct would only be 1/3 full.

The second fluid flow circuit is for the inner and outer blankets (Fig. 3). The radial build of the inboard blanket is 544 mm; that of the outboard blanket is 644mm. Both have a 5mm front wall, 40 mm Flinabe plenum and 60mm beryllium bed (57% packing density). The walls are advanced ferritic steel. The main breeding region at the back of the blanket is 400 mm deep in the inner blanket and 500 mm deep in the outer blanket. An inner blanket module extend 7.5° toroidally and an outer module 4.5°. The blanket collects about 80% of the heat produced by the reactor. The Flinabe flow enters each side channel of the blanket at 422°C and 0.18 m/s, flows to the front and then enters the multiplier region at 483°C and flows at 0.013 m/s into the interior space most of which is an open volume. The pressure drop through the bed is 0.02 MPa and is small elsewhere. The flow path must be designed to avoid stagnation points and local hot spots that could lead to degradation of the walls or beryllium balls.

IV. ENERGY CONVERSION AND MATERIALS

For good power conversion efficiency, we need a large operating temperature window. The power balance in our design is based on (a) the distribution of the alpha and auxiliary power plus (b) the management of coolant flow that includes a recirculating stream for the first wall, shown in Figure 3. For our liquid surface chamber designs, the limit for impurities evaporated from the wall, as determined from plasma edge modeling, set the maximum surface temperature of the first wall (or divertor), which is in turn related to the bulk temperature of the fluid through the heat transfer described above. The minimum fluid temperature (exit of heat exchanger) usually depends solely on the choice of fluid and is set so that the fluid does not freeze or become too viscous or precipitate solids in cold spots.

An obvious concern as we considered a fast flowing first wall was that the coolant temperature rise ($T_{\text{out}} - T_{\text{in}}$) in this stream would be very small. Our solution is to have only a small fraction of the first wall coolant (5100 of 27,000 kg/s) pass through the blanket and go to the power conversion system, while the remainder is recirculated. With this solution there is some parasitic “cost” in the power required for recirculation of Flinabe through the first wall (and a minor amount to the support structure), but overall we believe this is an effective solution. The Flinabe stream from the blanket heats to 646°C, which is an attractive outlet temperature for power conversion. We estimate the power conversions efficiency to be 49%.

The molten salt Flinabe is a mixture of three fluorides; the nominal 1:1:1 mixture is LiF-NaF-BeF₂. We have little data on the physical properties of Flinabe; we believe these are similar to Flibe, but with a lower melting temperature and the same BeF₂ concentration at the same temperature. Flibe is a mixture of LiF and BeF that was studied for use in molten salt fission reactors (and actinide burners) but much of the data are in laboratory technical reports.[34-36] Good data compilations also were done in the past for the HYLIFE-II study[37], a heavy-ion driver inertial fusion power plant, and for the Blanket Comparison and Selection Study[38]. There has also been a recent assessment of Flibe that discusses its chemistry and the issues associated with tritium processing.[39] The key advantage of Flinabe is its lower melting temperature. The lowest reported melting temperature is 240°C but this value is suspect and the melting point is the subject of experiments at Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory. This lower melting point extends the window of operating temperature enough that a workable design appears possible. The neutron multiplier is a 60-mm-thick bed of 5 mm beryllium pebbles and a packing density of 57%.

The primary structural material for the blanket, and auxiliary structures, is an advanced ferritic steel. The front and side walls of the blanket are 5 mm thick. The back wall is thicker. It is really the recent developments in the oxide dispersion-strengthened (ODS) ferritic alloys[40,41] and the extension of good mechanical properties to significantly higher temperature that are now bringing renewed interest to the application of ferritics in fusion. One formulation of an ODS ferritic steel being developed at Oak Ridge National Laboratory and designated 12YWT has 0.25% of Yttria and superior properties.[40] It appears to have a maximum working temperature of 800°C and corresponding yield strength of 320 MPa. When used with the molten salt coolant Flibe, the two materials are compatible up to 700°C.

V. MECHANICAL DESIGN

The mechanical design has been developed by authors Nelson, Fogarty and Eberle to the point that we can see that the design integration of the sectors and piping systems, manifolding, etc. is self-consistent, that the sizes and locations of the piping and ducts are reasonable in terms of the pressure drops, and that the components are amenable to handling for remote maintenance, e.g., all high maintenance components are designed as modules, such as the RF modules, nozzle arrays and the divertor cassette. Ref. [2] lists the modules and their volumes, has CAD drawings showing how the modules nest in the assembly sequence and gives the piping specifications. The first wall flow is represented as 20-mm-thick layer with the volumetric flow calculated at the midplane. Regarding flow around penetrations, the RF modules are used as an example and we anticipate that smooth flow around penetrations can be managed by a combination of flow separation and wall shaping above the penetration plus auxiliary nozzles at the bottom of the structures so that the downstream “hole” in the wake of the FW fluid flow can be filled with the added fluid. The nozzle system could be incorporated as the outlet for any necessary cooling passages within the structure itself.

Experienced designers have done this work. We believe the designs can be made robust in terms of the mechanical and EM (electromotive) forces that such a structure must withstand. Our objective in this work is to develop nominally workable designs for the chamber technology. We have had neither time nor resources to develop engineering details that would show mechanical response of the structure to various types of off normal events and transient loading that are associated with a detailed engineering design and safety analysis.

VI. NEUTRONICS

In the molten salt LiF-NaF-BeF₂ (Flinabe) the Li atom is in one of three fluoride molecules and its tritium breeding capability is less than that of LiF-BeF₂ (Flibe), in which Li is in one of two molecules. The lower Li concentration requires a comparatively more of the neutron multiplier beryllium to improve the tritium breeding ratio (TBR). Author Youseff has shown these characteristics for the structural materials, SiC and ferritic steel (HT-9) in the initial APEX liquid wall and blanket configuration, which was used earlier for assessment of TBR with other liquid breeders[42-46]. Ref. [2] summarizes an initial assessment of tritium breeding and a final assessment, the latter corresponded to the design described here with the blanket having an advanced ferritic steel structure with a 60-mm-thick Be bed of 57% packing density. In the space here we can present only a brief summary of the work on tritium breeding and neutronics.

A one-dimensional model that accounted for both the inboard (IB) and outboard (OB) was used in the analysis. The ANISN 1-D[47] code was used along with 46 neutron-21 gamma multigroup data library based on the FENDL-2 data[48]. The second assessment of TBR used more realistically matched the features of our chamber design. The beryllium zone composed of 4%AFS, 57% Be, and 39% Flinabe where as the breeding zone is composed of 4%AFS and 96% Flinabe. The total blanket thickness (front Flinabe zone + Be zone + back Flinabe Zone) is kept at 60 cm and 40 cm on the O/B and I/B side. For a 12-cm-thick Be zone, the local TBR is ~1.3 and is 1.4 for a ~28-cm-thick Be zone. The local value adopted in the present design is a TBR of ~1.22 for a thickness of the beryllium zone \square_{Be} of 6 cm (57% dense), which is equivalent to an effective beryllium thickness \square_{Be} of 3.4 cm. The corresponding TBR (~1.22) is used as the reference value and believed to be adequate in meeting tritium self-sufficiency goal.

Nuclear heating (from both neutrons and gamma rays) has been estimated for various APEX liquid wall (LW) configurations with Flinabe as the coolant and breeder. About 31% of the total nuclear heat is deposited in the I/B whereas the balance (~69%) is deposited in the O/B at the mid plane. The power deposited in the front flowing liquid layer is ~12-14% whereas most of the power (~80-83%) is deposited in the blanket (excluding its solid front wall).

The required minimum shield thickness, both in the inboard and outboard side, was estimated such that the upper limits to radiation damage to the magnet will not be exceeded. This optimization is needed to eliminate oversized shield and thus reduce cost. This also will allow for more space, particularly on the inboard side, for manifolds and piping to route coolant. The upper limits to radiation damage to the magnet considered in the analysis are: (1) end-of-life fast neutron fluence ($E_n > 0.1$ MeV) of 1.0×10^{19} n/cm², (2) end-of-life insulator (glass-fiber-filled, GFF, polyimide) dose of 1.0×10^9 Grays (1.0×10^{11} rads), (3) end-of-life copper stabilizer of 6×10^{-3} dpa, and (4) Peak winding pack power density of 2 mW/cm³. The good radiation attenuation characteristics of Flinabe resulted in thinner shield. The minimum shield thicknesses, based on end-of-life neutron fluences, are ~56 cm in the inboard side and ~26 cm in the outboard side³.

The penetration of brehmsstrahlung radiation (x-rays) in liquids was also investigated because the heating can be spread over a depth rather than being essentially surface heating as for solid walls. This spreading is most

pronounced for lithium but is also significant for Flinabe, which is similar to Flibe.[49]

Author Sawan performed activation calculations for the Flinabe blanket in the APEX liquid wall concept to determine the generated radioactive inventory and decay heat for the safety analysis.[50] The Flinabe activity is dominated by ¹⁶N ($T_{1/2} = 7.13$ s) for up to a minute after shutdown and by ²²Na ($T_{1/2} = 2.605$ y), ²⁴Na ($T_{1/2} = 14.96$ h), and ¹⁸F ($T_{1/2} = 1.83$ h) at later time. The total Flinabe activity is less than the total structure activity except for the first minute after shutdown. The total ²⁴Na activity is much lower than the total structure activity and is expected not to be a major concern when Flinabe is used in fusion systems.

The decay heat generated in the Flinabe is much larger than that generated in the advanced ferritic structure and should be a concern during a loss of flow accident (LOFA). The waste disposal rating (WDR) of the structure in the blanket is <0.8 and is contributed primarily by ⁹⁴Nb produced from transmutation of Mo. In addition, the Flinabe and Be WDR values are well below unity (<0.004). Hence, all blanket components will qualify as Class C low level waste.

VII. TRITIUM PROCESSING

Tritium has a very low solubility in Flibe or Flinabe. The Henry's law constant is only 7×10^{-5} moles-H₂/liter-atm.[51] Using this solubility along with the rates of tritium production and flow and temperature of Flinabe, Author Sze calculates that the tritium partial pressure over the Flinabe to be about 40 Pa at the exit of the reactor. This high partial pressure means that recovery of tritium from the Flinabe will not be a technical issue, however, tritium control will be a challenge.

Gas purging is the easiest method for recovering tritium from Flinabe, and a vacuum disengager process is proposed for this purpose. A key step in the process is using a vacuum system to pump tritium from the molten salt coolant. A process proposed for Flibe[52] can be used to recover tritium from Flinabe.

The tritium permeation rate in the primary heat transfer system was calculated by TMAP code as part of the safety analysis.[50] Without mitigation, the high tritium partial pressure over the Flinabe loop in this system would drive tritium permeation into the power conversion system. To address this, we use technologies evaluated for the molten salt reactor program. One is a ceramic coating on the inside of the piping of the primary loop in the primary heat exchanger. The other is a secondary molten salt heat exchanger with a secondary tritium recovery system to provide further isolation and reduction of tritium available for permeation into the steam generator. If the leakage rates from the primary system are high, the allowable

³ The O/B shield thickness of 60cm shown for the current design and can be reduced to 26cm.

tritium concentration in the secondary coolants will be low, and the coolant process rates for secondary tritium recovery will be high. In the purging systems, molecular sieves can be used to recover tritium from helium in a helium loop. Water distillation with vapor phase catalyst exchange can be used to recover tritium from water. Whether secondary systems for tritium recovery are affordable has not yet been evaluated.

VIII. SAFETY

Safety assessments[50,53] were performed for our blanket design, but here we have space here only for the conclusions. In the postulated worst-case accident, a total loss-of-site-power leads to loss of plasma control and a plasma disruption that generates electromagnetic currents in the internal components of the vacuum vessel that fail the windows of a diagnostic port or plasma-heating duct and fail a blanket wall by melting caused by runaway electron deposition. Air ingress and its reaction with the hot metal and spilt molten salt mobilizes radioactive material that is transported to the adjoining room by natural convection airflow through the failed port. We determined that the release of oxide aerosol from the advanced ferritic steel, activated Flinabe aerosol, and tritium to the environment does not exceed the no-evacuation dose limit of 10 mSv during the first week of this accident, provided that these releases are stacked. Given the rate of releases from the APEX liquid wall blanket design, the facility must be isolated within an additional two weeks to remain below the 10 mSv limit. If these releases can not be stacked, then the facility would have to be isolated within five days. Even for ground releases, the time allowed for isolation and facility cleanup is adequate even for manual operation of plant remediation and isolation systems.

The major radiological inventories in this blanket design are the activation products in the advanced ferritic steel structures, the activation products in the Flinabe coolant, and the tritium in blanket and cooling system components. We used the Tritium Migration Analysis Program (TMAP)[54] to predict tritium permeation and inventories for this blanket concept and the major reactor components of the primary heat transport system with the tritium sources being the liquid first wall, the Flinabe blanket and the beryllium multiplier. The total inventory of tritium in the advanced ferritic steel of the primary loop is about 115g with 77.6g as the in-vessel portion. There is less than 2g of tritium in the coolant.

Based on calculations with the MELCOR code[55,56] for a loss-of-cooling accident (LOCA) in the quadrant with a failed wall and a loss-of-flow accident (LOFA) in the three quadrants without power, the APEX liquid wall blanket design does not produce high temperatures during a LOCA, but high temperatures (~1100 °C) are reached for a sustained period of time during the LOFA

due to the decay heat of Flinabe. Two possible passive measures to remedy this problem are either an in-vessel natural convection decay heat removal system similar to those proposed by Refs. [57,58], or a passively activated valve that drains the Flinabe from the blanket into a tank that is passively cooled.

CLOSING REMARKS AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

A goal of the APEX study is to investigate the potential of free liquid surfaces in fusion chamber technology with a sufficient level of effort that the design issues can be resolved and an accurate assessment of this potential can be understood. While there are many unanswered questions and directions of investigation that would be important in advancing our chamber design, we believe our preliminary work suggests that tractable solutions for designs with a flowing molten salt could be developed along the lines of the approach reported here.

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